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COMING EVENTS AT YOUR *Shadow Mountain Club*

SPECIAL PARTIES AND EVENTS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20—Annual SMC Turkey Shoot
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24—Thanksgiving Dinner — Main Dining Room—12 Noon to 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2—Palm Desert Rotary Club Ladies Night
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10—Anniversary Ball

DAILY

SUNDAY—Brunch—Main Dining Room and Terrace 12:00 Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Dinner—6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

MONDAY—Women's Golf—9:00 a.m.

Ladies Bridge and Canasta Luncheon—12:00 Noon—Main Dining Room

Luncheon 12 to 2—Dinner 6 to 10

WEDNESDAY—Family Bridge and Canasta every other Wednesday starting November 16.

Luncheon 12 to 2—Dinner 6 to 10

THURSDAY-FRIDAY-SATURDAY

Luncheon 12 to 2

Dinner Dancing to the Jack Woods Trio on Friday and Saturday nights.

SWIMMING — TENNIS — GOLF

Additional recreational activities schedule in Lou Kuehner's column — this issue

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SUN SPOTS — NOVEMBER, 1955

Published at the Shadow Mountain Club, Palm Desert, California. Items of interest to members should be forwarded to "Sun Spots" Box 14, Palm Desert, Calif.

ON THE COVER



The inevitable at all Circus and Fair side shows, the exotic, the beautiful dancing girl whether she be Little Egypt, or as in this case Salome. So it was at the big Shadow Mountain Country Fair on October 29. That barker on the left is Dick Winans pointing with justifiable pride at and extolling the talents of Salome who in this case happens to be his bride Nancy Winans. Huge show lasting all afternoon and far into the night marked a highlight on the Shadow Mountain Club party calendar for the current season.

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COUNTRY FAIR HUGE SUCCESS

The one party that had everything. This seemed to be the consensus of feeling at Shadow Mountain Club after October 29's huge Country Fair Party which started early in the afternoon and continued at a speedy pace until the wee hours of the next morning.

Chairmaned and planned by Cliff Henderson and a committee of club members so large that we haven't space to mention them all, the affair was fun, fun, fun, all the way and will without doubt become a permanent fixture on the club calendar taking its place alongside the spring closing Luau as one of the "must" parties of the season.

Afternoon festivities got under way with games for kids and grown-ups on the west lawn. During the competition the huge fifty foot ferris wheel spun merrily around across the pool as young and old crowded aboard for the terrific view afforded from the top perch of the wheel to say nothing of the tickling sensation in the tummy. The weather, as usual, was perfect which means "warm" and the free ice cream and lemonade added to the enjoyment of the occasion.



Allen Willard, equipped with colorful cape, helmet, and oversize baton leads the brass band parade marking the start of festivities at the October 29 "Country Fair."

At 4:30 a big parade led by a brass band and consisting of acrobats, wild animals, horse-back riders, children gaily decked out in their Hallowe'en costumes, a 1916 Ford and a 1956 Lincoln Continental, circled the swimming pool area and halted at the side-show midway to signal the start of the Freak show. Club members, cleverly disguised as Fat Ladies, Wild Men, Salome, Siamese twins and bubble bath experts entertained a turn away crowd for more than an hour.

Evening brought a tremendous buffet dinner on the terrace plus the evening show featuring barber shop quartets, hill-billy music, black face bands and opera singers. Then there was Edgar Bergen and his wife Frances to entertain spontaneously. Their show, we might add was terrific. And of course our old friend from "Oklahoma," Jim Alexander, closed the show with several numbers done up in his finest baritone style.

Congratulations, Cliff, to yourself and your wonderful committee which gave so untiringly of their time and talent to make this party the great affair it turned out to be. We'll be looking forward to next year's bigger and better COUNTRY FAIR.

THE
DESERT PATCH

"Palm Desert's Newest"

BOX 452 PALM DESERT

HOSPITALITY HOUSE UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The beautiful "Show House" that debuted in the *Saturday Evening Post* and other leading magazines last spring, is well on its way to becoming a reality. Members driving into the club grounds are greeted at the first curve by a sign announcing the fact that "Hospitality House" is being erected on the adjacent lot by the Stanthony Corporation of Los Angeles. The house will follow the complete design as depicted in the huge magazine advertisements and will incorporate many new developments in the housing field.

Member Stan Joseph, President of Stanthony Corporation, has retained Gene Roberts of Roberts Construction Co. as General contractor on the job. The majority of the sub-contractors and suppliers on the project are valley firms. Completion, including extensive landscaping plus a large swimming pool, is scheduled for early 1956.

MEMBER MIXED DOUBLES TOURNEY TO OPEN TENNIS SEASON AT SMC

Word comes at press time from Tennis Chairman Gene Roberts that the annual members only mixed doubles tennis tournament will be held on November 19 and 20.

Always a popular affair, this year's competition will take on added interest due to the pairings that will be made with great care to insure evenly matched play throughout. Tennis pro, Mil Richter, urges all devotees of the racquet game to place their entries early either at the front office or at his tennis shop poolside.

A cocktail party for participants and friends is planned for Sunday evening following completion of play and the awarding of trophies to the winners.

BUSINESS EXPANSION HITS PALM DESERT AREA

Nation wide business expansion which has received such a thorough coverage in the financial sections of the country's newspapers has not overlooked Palm Desert. Bank of America, which established a branch in the Desert Magazine building three years ago, has purchased the large lot on the corner of San Luis Rey and Highway 111 formerly occupied by a construction firm and will build new and modern quarters in the near future.

The Palm Desert Cleaners have completed a large new edifice on Highway 111 West to enable them to take care of the ever increasing volume of business both in the cleaning and Laundromat line.

Just one block west of the Post Office the large U-shaped building on Highway 111 which has been unoccupied for two years is undergoing a complete face-lifting operation and will house Hackborn's Carpet and Drapery shop in addition to a Gift Shop, Gourmet Shop, and German Bakery according to Alice Parry who is in charge of leasing arrangements.

Gates of the Desert Lodge, built and operated for the past three seasons by Marshall Gates has been sold to Forrest Bower, one of the owners of Palm Desert's Sun & Shadow hotel. It will continue to operate under the Gates Lodge name.

And of great interest to the many visitors who each year flock to our little sun drenched cove in ever increasing numbers is the announcement by Jerry Malone that the nation-wide Hertz Rent-a-Car System is establishing a branch at his Union Oil Service location on November 15.



Stan Joseph, President of Stanthony Corporation, left and General Contractor Gene Roberts relax at building site of "Hospitality House." The mountains and palms in the background create an unusually beautiful setting for the house which is destined to be one of the show-places of Shadow Mountain Park, Estates.

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Lou Kuehner calls the shots and Jean Damerel attempts to toss an apple in a barrel in one of the adult games which highlighted the afternoon festivities at October's Country Fair. Gil Cornelius and Ray Stager look on approvingly from background vantage point.

Kuehner's Korner

The Tots, Teens and Post-Teens of
Shadow Mountain Club
By LOU KUEHNER



Lou Kuehner

CALENDAR OF RECREATION ACTIVITIES

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18—Slim and Trim 9:30 a.m.
Tri-Ds 5:00-7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19—Shadows 12 Noon-2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23 — Slim and Trim 9:30 a.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25—Slim and Trim 9:30 a.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26—Shadows Party 12 Noon-2 p.m.

Trek—Tri-Ds 3-6 p.m.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27—Splash Party—All ages

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30 — Slim and Trim 9:30 a.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2—Slim and Trim 9:30 a.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3—Shadows 12 Noon-2 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7 — Slim and Trim 9:30 a.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9—Slim and Trim 9:30 a.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10 — Shadows 12 Noon-2 p.m.

Holiday Trek—Tri-Ds 3-6 p.m.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11—Sports and Water Show

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16—Tri-Ds 5-7 p.m.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17—Children's Christmas Party

COUNTRY FAIR

There's no need to remind everyone that the first annual Country Fair was a huge success. Maybe some people don't realize that a considerable sum of money was collected from the side shows and game booths which insures a big Christmas Party for the juniors of Shadow Mountain Club.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

Tri-Ds (age group 8-13 years)

The Tri-Ds group has started meeting on alternate Fridays at the Club from 5-7 p.m. The meetings generally include social games, sports activities, square dancing and ballroom dancing instruction. During the alternate weeks, the group is getting together on Saturday afternoons for some type of supper, outing or hike. The dinner charge ranges from \$1.00 to \$1.25.

Shadows (ages 4-7 years)

The Shadows started the season with a Saturday party and will continue meeting every Saturday from 12 noon 'til 2 p.m. Instead of a party each week, we have some specific activity such as crafts, dramatics or games followed by lunch. Parties will be held approximately once a month. The luncheon charge every Saturday is \$.75.

SLIM AND TRIM

We're happy to report that the Ladies' Slim and Trim Class has started sessions and will be going strong 'til December 9. At that date we will take a vacation and then resume again after the Holidays. It's still not too late to be a part of this group. For information call at the Club.

NEW CLASSES FORMING

Many people have suggested having a Judo Club and Ballroom Dancing Club. If enough folks express interest in these or other activity Clubs, we will be very happy to help get them organized. Remember, this is your Club. Help make it an interesting one!

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The Hallowe'en costume party at S.M.C. is always a big day on the small fry calendar. Here a group of youngsters pose for their pictures before taking their places in the country fair parade.

GOLF ACTIVITIES UNDER WAY

Since his arrival the latter part of October Golf Pro Bob Pinnell has been devoting many hours daily in bringing the pitch and putt course into fine shape. The course has been lengthened considerably by the elimination of the Number 6 green and adding an extra putting surface on the large area comprising the club "front yard." This change has made for a much more interesting layout and with the completion of the huge practice putting "clock" outside the main club dining room our golf facilities have been enhanced greatly.

The Ladies Golf Association of Shadow Mountain Club under the

chairmanship of June Goodwin are by far the most active pitch and putt devotees and have planned their usual Monday morning tourney to start on November 14 followed by the first golf luncheon of the season. Their program for the entire winter season will include six major tournaments starting with the Betenclif Trophy affair in December and concluding with the Handicap Championship in April. In between will be the Invitational, The Club Championship, the Horserace Tourney and Calcutta dinner, and the Ringer Tournament. Dates of the events will be announced to club members shortly and will appear also in next month's Sun Spots.

SHADOW MOUNTAIN STABLES PLANS BANNER SEASON

Back at their ol' stompin' grounds at the bend on Highway 111, Lisle and Gy Nixon have scheduled a series of events and activities calculated to keep the riding devotees plenty busy throughout the winter.

A junior riding group for 14 year olds and under has been organized and will meet each Saturday morning at 10 a.m. This group will plan their own equestrian activities and will compete for the Clifford W. Henderson perpetual Equestrian Trophy for Juniors. Initial competition is set for the Annual Thanksgiving Gymkana on Saturday, November 26.

Again this year, as last, three man "arena" polo competition will get under way on alternate Sundays with Stanford University's team meeting the local group on November 13.

Starting this month there will be regular luncheon rides at 10 a.m. each Wednesday, in addition to the Sunday morning Breakfast rides which leave the stables at 8:30 a.m.

TRAVEL STORIES PROVE POPULAR

Earl Obern's story of a trip through Mexico by car appearing in the October issue of Sun Spots created considerable interest among our readers as evidenced by many requests for additional copies.

Mr. Obern has consented to do another article for the December issue, this time about Hawaii, a subject upon which he is well qualified having lived in the romantic Pacific isles for several months. Meanwhile this month we take you to a spot much nearer Palm Desert. Randall Henderson, major domo of the Desert Magazine, contributes a story of a trip down the falls of Deep Canyon which in a manner of speaking is in our back yard.

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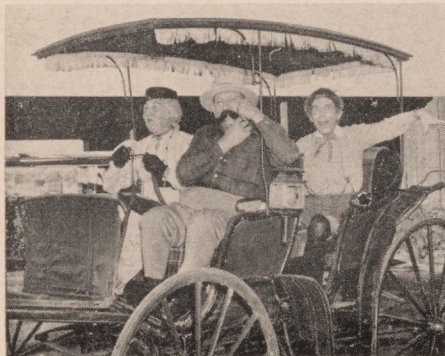
COUNTRY



One of the most popular people at the Country Fair. Mrs. Gil Cornelius who dispensed the free ice-cream and lemonade during the afternoon program.



ABOVE: Dixieland band-leader, Cliff Henderson leads the cake-walk at the night show with his two "queens," Madame Bougainvillea (Milt Page) left and Madame Oleander ("Bos" Bosworth).



LEFT: Fringe-topped surrey in the afternoon parade. Eloise Vennaman at the reins, Major Slater twirling his mustach and "Junior" (Clay Stearns) in the rumble seat.



RIGHT: Wilbur and Cytha Bear.

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FAIR



Jan and Bill Doty, Skip Lawson and Lou Kuehner put finishing touches to giant midway posters the day prior to the "Country Fair" opening. More than thirty club members served under Chairman Cliff Henderson in handling the many details connected with staging and producing this party.



Edgar Bergen and "Ophelia" entertain huge dinner gathering as "night" show climaxed Fair day at Shadow Mountain.



Late afternoon "Freak" show played to turn-away crowds. Three of the "star" attractions, left the "Bearded Lady" (Dr. Addes), above bubble bath expert "Stella" (Hal Kapp) and right, the outstanding candidate for the "slim and trim" class, Fat Lady (Jerry Malone).



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Club Closeups..

Who! When! Where!

By GRETCHEN

When Shadow Mountain Club closed after Labor Day for a month, how we missed it! And we also missed seeing the staff that worked so hard to give us a wonderful summer season. We could hear hammers pounding, paint brushes flopping, cement mixers roaring—it was difficult not to say “meet you at the Club.” But when the doors opened October 1, what a sight met our eyes—a beautiful blue swimming pool, umbrellas on the terrace for noon lunches—poolside furniture painted and in perfect order. The Clothes Horse, our pool-side dress and gift shop had had a “face-lifting”—and what a beautiful interior we found—Mrs. Isabelle Belyea who owns the shop really went all out! Where now! Indoors to see the new and enlarged Shadow Room, the new bandstand moved to the west side of the Shadow Room enlarged—and newly decorated—What a pleasant surprise is in store “when” the “whos” arrive this season from “Every where.”

There were many new members that came into the Club up until the time it closed for the month of September. These new Shadow Mountain “Clubbers” agreed that while it was hot, there was always the Club pool, always a group around pool-side that were gay. The Summer Dining Room proved a great success—and it was full every evening—and the dress was most informal—The Club members, new and old agree that everyone had fun! New members are Mr. and Mrs. David D. Lonie of Palm Desert, Mr. and Mrs. John R. Coonan, daughters Christine, Deborah, Candace and son Patrick—This family late of Hollywood now live in Rancho Mirage. Mr. and Mrs. Paul E. Orewiler, Mrs. Evelyn M. Hooper of Brentwood, her mother, Mrs. Lorena Thomas and son and daughter, Howard and Penny. Mr. Gordon Cologne of Indio. Welcome to Shadow Mountain Club!



Fieldstone wall provides beautiful backdrop for Club President, Andy Moseley's party at Informal Opening dinner dance in October. Clockwise around the table: Mrs. Carl Henderson, Paul Barnes, Mrs. Herb Pickering, Mrs. Kelley McBean, Mrs. Moseley, Mrs. Barnes and Carl Henderson. Standing at the rear: Kelley McBean, Andy Moseley, Club Manager Ernie Boudreau and Herb Pickering.



Gay group at the Oct. 15 Informal Opening party included Patty Entz, Milt Page, Teddy and Gene Roberts, Don Entz, Betty Page, and Anne and Bill Janss.

The first dressed-up glimpse we had of the new Shadow Room was Saturday evening, Oct. 15. The Informal opening of the Club—It may have been informal in name and fun, but the ladies were in their new formal best for the most part—and such beautiful clothes—against the pale pink tablecloths, wine colored glassware, soft lights and gay music, it proved a lovely evening. Many members had returned from their summer vacations and also many “winter only” homes were opened earlier this year, hence a bigger Shadow Mountain Club party than usual at such an early date. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. Tony Whan, Mrs. Henry Passow, Mr. and Mrs. Don Cameron, Mr. Cliff Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Button, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Cutting, Mr. and Mrs. M. Slater, Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Baird, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Morrey, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Dudley Steele, Mr. and Mrs. Rudd Hackborn, Mr. and Mrs. Hal Davis, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Pierson, Mr. and Mrs. Pat Ritchie, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Obern, Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Carpenter, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Moseley, Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Schilck, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Harstad, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Pickering, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Barnes, Edith Eddy Ward, Mrs. Bobbie Reichert, and Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Bower.

Hardly had we recovered from the above gala party, when along came the “Country Fair” Saturday, Oct. 29—This is to be an annual affair—It was complete with ferris-wheel, donkey rides, games of chance, side shows, midway barkers and a twenty piece band leading a parade of youngsters from two to twenty! Tricycles and bicycles decorated in Hallowe'en colors, followed by pink elephants and other stuffed animals, tumbler, kids with their puppies

and various pets disguised as ferocious animals in their cages! Two shiny black cars, one a 1916 Ford, the other a 1956 Continental, both owned by Frank O'Connor of Los Angeles and Palm Desert were featured in the parade. Games and contests for children and adults conducted in the afternoon ran the gamut from pie-eating to three-legged races. Side shows along the "Midway" located around the pool, included the bearded lady, fat lady, Siamese Twins, Salome and Wild man. All barkers and side-show attractions were members of the Club, thus adding a great deal of hilarity to the festivities.

A buffet supper served with all the fried chicken you could eat plus the "trimmin's," helped to carry out the rural atmosphere—Stars of stage, screen and television were featured during the evening floor show. Out-standing were Edgar Bergen, his lovely wife, Frances and James Alexander of "Oklahoma" fame—Don't miss it next year!

Having set you up-to-date on "Who"—"When"—and "Where"—we have a few more items of interests to add to "close-ups"! Well-known screen stars will be around



Ringside at a recent Saturday night dinner dance in the new Shadow Room. From left: Roy St. Leon, Mercedes Schwilck, Mrs. St. John and Ade Schwilck.

Shadow Mountain Club this winter—Mr. and Mrs. Randolph Scott will be here in January, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Bergen, or should we say Edgar and Frances Bergen, own a home near the Club and pop in almost any time—Mr. and Mrs. Gabby Hayes are in England but expect to be in the desert very soon—Brian Donlevy can be seen almost any week end having "brunch" on the terrace. Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Boyd, and again I should say Hopalong Cassidy and his wife have about completed a new "black and white" desert home and will be living here soon—Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Reid have gone to Chicago for six months but their home on Joshua Tree St. will be occupied by Mr. J. B. Hughes of Virginia. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Smith and their daughter Susan from Winnipeg, Canada will spend the winter here—Susan is attending the Palm Valley School.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fithian leave for Hawaii, December 1 and will be away for two months. Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Schmidt of Pittsburgh opened their Deep Canyon home for a few weeks and then departed for Hawaii for a month or two—they love Shadow Mountain Club and they will be back! Mr. and Mrs. Frank Atha suddenly decided to take a trip to New York and on to Europe. Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Hanousek have been in and out of the Club all summer! Mr. Fred Siemen has returned from a three month sojourn in Europe. Club members will enjoy seeing Fred's pictures taken during his trip. Mr. Joe Hughes took a trip east this summer and brought back his charming sister, Miss Jane Hughes for the winter. Mr. and Mrs. Gene Raymond (Jeanette McDonald) spend many week ends here, basking in the warm desert sunshine! Mrs. Robert Brooks and her sister, Mrs. E. V. Landers took a two week vacation in Hawaii.

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The Davis Cup, symbol of international amateur tennis supremacy, on display at the Balboa Bay Club during a September visit of the victorious Australian team shown here with Mil Richter, Shadow Mountain Club's new tennis pro. From left: Lew Hoad, Rex Hartwig, Richter, Neil Fraser and Ken Rosewall.

MIL RICHTER SUCCEEDS RURAC AS TENNIS PRO

From the Balboa Bay Club where he spent the past summer as Tennis pro comes Mil Richter to take over duties as Shadow Mountain Club's teaching professional to succeed Vini Rurac who has moved to the Racquet Club in Palm Springs.

Like his predecessor, Mil is an escapee from the Communist dominated part of Europe. When the Communist coup took over his native Czechoslovakia in 1948, Richter, a graduate of Charles University in Prague, was teaching physical education at the University. For his refusal to follow the communist line he was brought to trial as a political opponent of the state and threatened with a stiff prison sentence if he failed to mend his ways. Feigning obedience, he became active in the underground movement. An informer tipped the police as to his activities and a friend warned him that he would soon be picked up. Know-

ing that a jail sentence of 20 or more years would await him, Mil hurriedly departed the country through the underground escape route and in three days crossed the Austrian border to safety.

In 1949 he was fortunate enough to land a job as Tennis Pro at the Club de la Banque Nationale de Belgique in Belgium. Later he took a Tennis job in Capetown, South Africa, during which time he enrolled at Capetown University to pursue his study of anthropology which has always interested him.

During his stay in Capetown he applied for a visa to the United States and was accepted on a quota in June, 1955. While in New York he was recommended to Perry Jones of Los Angeles and Jones in turn recommended him to the Balboa Bay Club where he has held forth for the greater part of the past summer.

BRIDGE LUNCHEONS TO START MONDAY, NOV. 14

Beginning Monday, November 14 the Ladies' Bridge and Canasta luncheons will be held every Monday in the Club house dining room.

Family Bridge and Canasta evening parties will be held every other Wednesday night starting on Nov. 16.

Reservations for these popular affairs may be made through the Chairman Belle Keightley or through the club office.

COCHRAN RANCH GOLF COURSE IN EXCELLENT SHAPE

Cochran Ranch's sporty nine hole golf course, the only public fee course within ten miles of Shadow Mountain Club, has undergone an extensive face lifting job both on the course and in the pro shop and snack bar.

We limbered up the old driver and putter there the other day for the first time since spring and were greatly impressed by the lushness of the fairways and the smoothness of the bent grass putting greens.

Roger Pettit, PGA, has been named pro this year succeeding Ed Vines of Chicago. Daily and Seasonal greens fee rates plus special membership charges for Coachella Valley residents are in effect at present.

Any of you Shadow Mountain golf enthusiasts who may have the urge to belt that long ball down a beautiful palm lined fairway just hop in the car and drive east on Date Palm drive to Monroe avenue at Indio city limits, turn right for a mile and tee 'er up.

To Shadow Mountain Club Members

Perhaps your friends or relatives back East, or North, South or West as the case may be would be interested in receiving a copy of Sun Spots. We would be glad to mail them a copy. Just forward the information below to Shadow Mountain Club and we will start a copy on the way:

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DEEP CANYON WATERFALLS

In Palm Desert's Backyard

The rugged and barren-looking slopes of the Santa Rosa Mountains—visible from every home in Palm Desert—are not as arid as they appear. Concealed in the depths of many of those canyons are springs and pools and waterfalls and wild palm trees—the watering places of the bighorn sheep whose habitat is the Santa Rosas. Here is the story of one of the most precipitous of the Santa Rosa gorges—Deep Canyon. Randall Henderson traversed this canyon and wrote this story for Desert Magazine in November, 1938—many years before there was a Palm Desert.

By RANDALL HENDERSON
Editor of Desert Magazine

Within a dozen miles of the Shadow Mountain Club is one of the loveliest canyons in Southern California—where in midsummer there are a thousand pools of blue-green water known only to the bighorn sheep which live on the north slope of the Santa Rosa Range—and to a few explorers who have traversed its depths.

I am referring to Deep Canyon, that precipitous gorge seen on the left of the highway as one climbs the Palms-to-Pines road from Palm Desert.

My acquaintance with Deep Canyon goes back to the summer of 1938 when Fred Taylor of the Los Angeles police force invited me to accompany his party on a downstream traverse of this little known gorge. Fred and his 12-year old son had attempted to go down the canyon on one occasion and had found themselves trapped between two waterfalls with insufficient rope to go up or down. After a chilly night they were rescued by friends who had lowered additional rope down to them.

Fred wanted to try it again and invited Wilson McKenney and myself, of the Desert Magazine staff, to join the party.

Our rendezvous was the comfortable cabin built by Fred's father on the cliff overlooking the canyon. The elder Taylor occupied this scenic spot for many years. Our equipment consisted of four 100-foot ropes, a couple of drill

bits, and some short pieces of iron pipe to be drilled into the rock for belaying purposes.

It was an easy hike down the slope below the Taylor cabin to the floor of the upper canyon, a drop of approximately 600 feet. Our starting point was at an elevation of 3500 feet. The sandy floor of the upper canyon provided a good trail at first but we had not proceeded far before the grade became steeper and there was an increasing number of huge boulders to be surmounted.

Deep canyon in July has only a small stream of water flowing on the surface, and in some places this disappeared entirely, but the sands evidently carried a generous supply of moisture for we found it necessary to wade or swim or detour one pool after another. However, it was no hardship to dive into a pool of cool crystal water, for the thermometer in Coachella Valley a few miles away was above the 100-degree mark.

Deep canyon is clean. Desert dwellers will know what I mean. The arroyos which empty into the desert valleys are clean or brushy according to the frequency with which great floods of storm water come down from the slopes above. Floods of cloudburst proportions carry away the smaller vegetation and even uproot native palms and other large trees. Deep canyon evidently has many such floods.

The predominating tree in this canyon is the cottonwood. There are about 150 of them along the 10-mile route of

our traverse. I was disappointed in the number of palms—only 41 of them including both veterans and young trees. I had expected more, but evidently the storm floods come too often to permit them to multiply. Those we saw were growing up on the sidewalls, some of them 500 or 600 feet above the floor of the canyon. It is mystifying to see native Washingtonias clinging to the rocky sidewalls of a canyon with no visible supply of water. But water is there—a hidden supply that never reaches the surface. Otherwise there would be no palm trees.

Our first climbing problem was a waterfall with a sheer drop of 75 feet. But there was an easy detour so we did not uncoil the ropes. Further downstream we came to a 12-foot drop where it was necessary to dive in and swim a 40-foot pool. We arranged an overhead tramway with the ropes for the transportation of knapsacks and equipment.

No serious difficulties developed until we reached the junction where Hidden Palms Canyon comes in as a tributary from the west. Palms-to-Pines travelers who have never stopped along the highway for at least a glimpse of the Hidden Palms oasis have missed one of the desert's most enchanting surprises.

To see these palms it is necessary to park the car at the Adair cabin located by the side of the road near the top of the winding grade which comes up from Coachella Valley. A sign marks the location of the palms. The visitor takes a short walk along the trail which leads from the cabin to the top of the ridge above the palm group. They may be seen far below, huddled together like a band of outlaws trapped in their hideout. A path leads down to the palms and the little spring which flows in the midst of them—but this is not a trip for high-heeled shoes or overfed tourists.

Two healthy cottonwood trees on the floor of Deep Canyon mark the junction where the Hidden Palms tributary comes in from the west.

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We did not stop long at this point for the canyon walls were closing in and we were eager to know what those towering cliffs held in store for us.

The answer was not long delayed. Just around the next bend we came suddenly to an abrupt drop of at least 60 feet. Below was an inviting pool of deep green water. There was no detour here.

The Taylors had roped down this waterfall on a previous trip and the iron pipe they had drilled into the rock at the top for belay purposes was still there. It was a case of rope down and swim 30 feet across a deep pool to reach firm footing. Again we arranged an overhead tram to shuttle the knapsacks and extra clothing to the dry sandbar beyond the water.

We were in the most precipitous sector of the gorge now and our progress was sharply downgrade as we scrambled over boulders and swam and waded through crystal pools that followed one another in close succession.

Less than a quarter of a mile from our last rope-down we came to major fall No. 3—a 50-foot vertical drop over a face of rock that was decorated with great hanging gardens of ferns.

We found a rock at the top around which to belay the rope and I think we all felt a trace of disappointment when Charles Olson went down first and reported that the pool at the base was only waist deep. It was nearly noon, we were nearing the floor of the desert, and those refreshing plunges into deep water were welcome variations in the program.

The big adventure of the day was still ahead — but not far away. We had gone but a short distance when we arrived at the top of a waterfall no member of this party had ever descended. This was the point where the previous Taylor expedition ended.

From the smooth granite slabs where we stood it was impossible to see the face of the fall below, but far beneath us the outer edge of a pool was visible. Vertical distances always appear greater when looking down than when looking up—but it was quite evident we were facing a longer rope-down than we had encountered before.

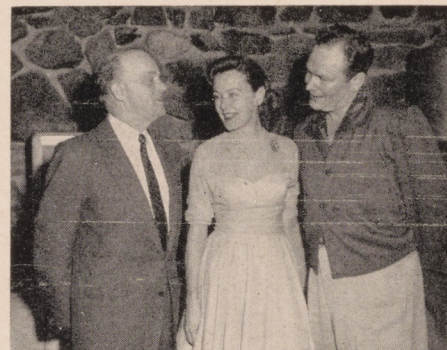
It was noon and by unanimous consent we dug into the knapsacks for lunch—and while we ate we discussed the possibilities of the descent. We had no way of knowing whether one of our 100-foot ropes would reach the bottom. To make sure the first man down would not find himself at the end of the rope dangling in midair many feet above the pool, we tied two ropes together. While the rest of us were arranging the ropes Vic Ownby was busy with his drill bits sinking a hole in the granite ledge in which to drive down an iron pipe for belay purposes.

Fred Taylor went down first, using a climber's sling which enabled him to lower himself at will without undue strain on his arms. This sling is formed by facing the belay and running the rope between the legs, then around the left hip and up across the front of the body and back over the right shoulder. The left hand grasps the rope as it dangles behind the body. The right hand holds the rope in front as it comes for the belay. Where the rock face to be descended does not overhang too much it is proper technic to walk down the vertical wall, releasing the rope in



ABOVE: President Andy Moseley welcomes J. F. O'Connor to the "Country Fair" on October 29, and just to let SMC members have a good look at what forty years has done to the automobile, J. F. brought along his 1916 Ford and 1956 Lincoln Continental. Both cars were in the "gigantic" afternoon parade.

RIGHT: Edgar and Frances Bergen, and Jim Alexander in Club Lounge before the big "night" show at the Country Fair.



short hitches with the left hand as the descent is made.

The rope is doubled around the belay point, and then pulled through after the last man is down. For added security another rope is knotted around the waist of the climber and kept taut from a second belay as the descent is made.

We found a 100-foot rope just touched the surface of the water in the pool below. The descent was made in a small stream of water which trickled over the fall and gave the roper a cool shower as he descended. The face of the fall was wet and slimy with moss, making it impossible to keep a footing on the vertical wall, and members of the party had to hang free and lower themselves as they would on an overhanging cliff.

The surprising fact at the 100-foot fall was that the water at the bottom was just knee-deep — the shallowest pool we encountered all day.

Below this major fall we found more pools and a few vertical drops of 10 to 12 feet, but only once during the remainder of the trip was it necessary to uncoil the rope.

At the top of the big fall our altimeter showed an elevation of 1650. A half mile farther down the canyon walls began to spread out and a hot blast of air blowing up the channel served notice we were approaching the floor of Coachella Valley.

Pools became less frequent and then disappeared entirely and soon we were trudging along on the sandy floor of a wide arroyo. We followed the Deep Canyon fan to an elevation of 900 feet, and then, rather than continue through four or five miles of heavy sand before reaching the highway beyond we took a short-cut climb of 900 feet up to the Palms-to-Pines highway where we had arranged for cars to meet us.

We estimated the total hike from the Taylor cabin at 11 miles. The time was eight hours.

For experienced climbers the Deep Canyon traverse is not difficult. It should not be undertaken, however,

without plenty of rope and some knowledge of its use on vertical walls.

None of the members of our party could be classed as expert in the art of rock climbing, and yet we made the trip without serious hazard. On the long descents we used a special sling for 12-year-old Freddie Taylor. Vic Ownby, 63 years of age, whose experience as a hard rock miner served us well when it came time to sink belay irons in the rock at the top of the falls, was out in front leading the younger members of the party much of the way. His agility at an age when most men have given up all thought of hard physical exercise is the reward of an active life in the outdoors.

We left the iron belays in place for future climbers.

The Deep Canyon trip should be undertaken only at certain times of the year, preferably during May and June. Unless there are summer showers to refresh the pools they may become green with scum in late summer. A trip in midwinter when a larger stream of water is flowing down the canyon would be exciting—but frequent plunges in chilly water at that time of the year might involve much discomfort before the day was over.

Deep canyon offers an adventure—tame, perhaps, according to the standards of professional adventurers — but with enough thrills to satisfy any ordinary explorer of the out-of-the-way places.

The rugged splendor of Deep Canyon is reward enough for any physical hardships encountered along the way. It is a wild rocky gorge, and while I have devoted most of this story to the physical problems of traversing the canyon, I want to record my opinion that for sheer rugged grandeur Deep Canyon deserves rank as one of the most impressive scenic areas in the Desert Southwest. And I am sure it will never be crowded with traffic.

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